

PSAT Writing and Language Practice Test 1: Conventions of Standard English

1. Which word(s) in the following sentence should NOT be capitalized?

Can You Speak German?

- A. You and Speak
- B. Can and German
- C. Can, You, and Speak
- D. You, Speak, and German

2. Fill in the blank with the correctly capitalized form.

Every week, they get together to watch _____.

- A. the bachelor
- B. The Bachelor
- C. The bachelor
- D. the Bachelor

3. Choose the correct sentence.

- A. They used to live in the pacific northwest.
- B. They used to live in the Pacific northwest.
- C. They used to live in the pacific Northwest.
- D. They used to live in the Pacific Northwest.

4. What is the sentence with the correct use of punctuation?

- A. Offcampus apartments are nicer.
- B. Off campus apartments are nicer.

C. Off-campus apartments are nicer.

D. Off-campus-apartments are nicer.

5. Which of the following sentences is correct?

A. I asked Scott, How was your day?

B. Scott said, it was awesome.

C. He claimed, «My history presentation was great!»

D. I said, That's wonderful!

6. What is the mistake in the following sentence?

The highestranking officer can choose his own work, including his own hours.

A. *Highestranking* needs a hyphen.

B. There should be a comma after *officer*.

C. There should be no comma after *work*.

D. There should be a semicolon after *work*.

7. Which of the following spellings is correct?

A. Busines

B. Business

C. Buseness

D. Bussiness

8. What is the correct plural of morning?

A. Morning

B. Mornings

C. Morninges

D. Morningies

9. On Earth, ____ are seven continents.

- A. their
- B. there
- C. theer
- D. they're

ANSWER KEY

1. **A.** *You and Speak.* Can is the first word in the sentence and needs to be capitalized. German is a nationality and needs to be capitalized. The other two words do not need to be capitalized. **See**

Lesson: Capitalization.

2. **B.** *The Bachelor.* The names of TV shows are capitalized. *The* is capitalized here because it is the first word in the name. **See**

Lesson: Capitalization.

3. **D.** *They used to live in the Pacific Northwest.* Specific geographic regions are capitalized. **See Lesson: Capitalization.**

4. **C.** *Off-campus apartments are nicer.* Hyphens are often used for compound words that are placed before the noun to help with understanding. **See Lesson: Punctuation.**

5. **C.** *He claimed, "My history presentation was great!"* Quotation marks enclose direct statements. **See Lesson: Punctuation.**

6. **A.** *Highestranking needs a hyphen.* Hyphens are used for compound words that describe a person or object. **See Lesson: Punctuation.**



7. B. *Business* is the only correct spelling. **See Lesson: Spelling.**

8. B. For most words ending in consonants, just add -s. **See Lesson: Spelling.**

9. B. *There* describes a place or position and is correctly spelled. **See Lesson: Spelling.**

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